

I undertook to provide additional material to Senator Humphries, regarding practical ways to incorporate the voices of children and young people as per the NGO Consortium recommendations for Section 46MC.

I have obtained further material on children's participation in social and public policy debates and matters relating to decisions being made about them and or on their behalf. We believe that it is now clear that children's participation is well accepted practice internationally, with participation taking a range of forms. Arguably the most comprehensive forms of children's and youth participation are the children's and youth parliaments that have been established in several countries, including Slovenia, Wales, Bangladesh and South Africa.

Internationally, children and young people have participated actively and effectively in a range of fora, bringing their ideas to the debate and offering perspectives that adults very often miss. Key examples include:

- Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Children - in May 2002, more than 7000 children participated in this special session
- The International Meeting of Working Children, Kandupur India, 1996
- The UN Secretary General's Study on Violence against Children included extensive consultation with children, for example the background study on the physical and emotional study on the physical and emotional punishment of children included the views of 3000 children (see Beazley, Bessell, Ennew and Waterson;
- *What Children Say: Results of Comparative Research on Physical and Emotional Punishment of Children in Southeast Asia and the Pacific*, Save the Children Sweden, Bangkok, 2006)
- The New Zealand Charter on the Rights of Tamariki Children and Rangatahi Young People in Healthcare Services in Aotearoa New Zealand. Available at - http://children.wcha.asn.au/sites/default/files/children_and_young_people_rights_nz_2011_cover_0.pdf

In the ACT there are good examples of children and young people being consulted on policy issues:

- Establishment of a Children's Commissioner included consultations with children from 5-17 years.
- Development of a Charter of Rights for Children and Young People in the ACT included consultations with children and young people aged between 7 and 24 years

Examples from elsewhere in Australia include:

- The City of Bendigo's Children's Report, based on consultations with children http://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/News_and_Information/Media_releases/CHILDRENS_REPORT_NOW_AVAILABLE
- Charter of Rights for Children and Young People in Care, South Australia

I trust this information is helpful for the Senators in providing details of consultation and participation with children and young people.

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